

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-10 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-11 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. However, in light of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Harrod et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,773).

Claim 1 has been amended and now recites a “[d]evice for treating garments, comprising: a garment holding enclosure for receiving, enclosing, and moistening garments; *at least one garment moistening tool having at least one outlet for supplying a moistening agent to garments located outside the garment holding enclosure when the garment holding enclosure is in an enclosed configuration*; and moistening agent supplying means for supplying the moistening agent to the garment holding enclosure.”

Harrod describes a method and apparatus for concurrently pressing the front and back of a shirt and finishing the sleeves and for pressing the collar and cuffs of the shirt. (See Harrod col. 2, ll. 48-52). Harrod describes an apparatus that comprises a shirt buck and a supplemental shirt buck. (See Harrod Abstract). The Examiner states the Harrod apparatus can be divided into two portions: a left-hand side portion (212) and a right-hand side portion. The Examiner refers to the first portion (right-hand side portion) to meet the recited garment holding enclosure and the second portion (212) to meet the recited garment moistening tool for moistening garments outside of the garment holding enclosure. (See 2/20/09 Office Action, p. 2, l. 21- p.3, l. 9). However, Harrod explicitly discloses that “we have invented additional apparatus for pressing the collar and cuffs of

the shirts that is fully integrated with our patented apparatus.” (See Harrod, col. 4, ll. 36-38). The right-hand side portion the Examiner relies on to meet the recited garment holding enclosure is disclosed in Harrod’s previous patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,474,216) (hereinafter “Harrod 216”). So, the apparatus of Harrod is the “collar and cuffs pressing apparatus 212” (See Harrod, col. 8, ll. 50-51), which the Examiner refers to as the “left-hand side portion. Since the collar and cuffs pressing apparatus 212 is **fully integrated** with the right-hand side portion, then both portions are considered to be one device. In fact, it is evident from Figure 3 of Harrod, that both portions are not segmented, but open to each other. Therefore, there would be no way for collar and cuffs pressing apparatus 212 to supply “*a moistening agent to garments located outside the garment holding enclosure when the garment holding enclosure is in an enclosed configuration*” because the right-hand side portion opens into collar and cuffs apparatus 212. Furthermore, there would be no way to close off the right-side portion from the collar and cuffs pressing apparatus 212 because one of the short shoulder rods of the right-side portion extends into the collar and cuffs pressing apparatus (left-side portion). (See Id., Figs. 2-5). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Harrod fails to disclose or suggest “*at least one garment moistening tool having at least one outlet for supplying a moistening agent to garments located outside the garment holding enclosure when the garment holding enclosure is in an enclosed configuration,*” as recited in independent claims 1 and 7 and that these claims are, therefore, allowable. Because claims 2 and 3 depend on and, therefore, contain all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable.

Claims 1-3, 9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Korean Document (20-02011898).

In order to clarify the claimed invention, claim 1 has been amended to recite “at least one garment moistening tool having at least one outlet for supplying a moistening agent to garments located outside the garment holding enclosure *when the garment holding enclosure is in an enclosed configuration.*” The claimed invention comprises a garment holding enclosure and at least one garment moistening tool that is used to

moisten garments outside of the enclosure. The Examiner refers to Korean Document to meet this recitation and states that “[t]he second portion of the apparatus is position for use outside of the enclosure, on the door of the enclosure as it is swung open and outside the enclosure proper.” (See 2/20/09 Office Action, p. 4, ll. 14-16). It is evident from the drawing on p. 11 of Korean Document that the second portion the Examiner refers to is located on the inside of the door of the enclosure. Thus, the door would have to be open for this portion to be usable. It would be impossible to use this portion while the enclosure “*is in an enclosed configuration*,” as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 3 are allowable over Korean Document.

Claim 9 recites limitations substantially similar to those of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 and its dependent claim 11 are also allowable over Korean Document for at least the foregoing reasons presented with regard to claim 1.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Bullock (U.S. Patent No. 3,805,561).

Claim 7 has been amended and now recites the limitations of “at least one garment moistening tool located outside the garment holding enclosure when the garment holding enclosure is in an enclosed configuration.”

In contrast, Bullock discloses “[a] garment finishing apparatus for dewrinkling clothes including a cabinet into the interior of which clothes to be finished are placed via a door, a steam generator for converting water into steam which is then emitted into the interior of the cabinet for dewrinkling the clothes.” (See Bullock, Abstract). Bullock is directed to a clothes washing machine 10. The drawings of the Bullock disclosure further support the fact that there is no garment moistening tool located outside the washing machine 10. The Bullock washing machine treats garments that are located in the interior of the machine 10. Accordingly, Bullock fails to disclose or suggest “*at least one garment moistening tool located outside the garment holding enclosure when the*

garment holding enclosure is in an enclosed configuration,” as recited in claim 7. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 and its dependent claim 8 are allowable over Bullock.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Korean Document in view of Stillwell, Jr. (2,785,557).


Stillwell, Jr. is directed to a machine that washes and dries fabrics in a single cycle of operation. (See Stillwell, Jr., col. 1, ll. 1-3). It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not provide a washing machine with a garment moistening tool outside of the machine. Applicants respectfully submit that Stillwell, Jr. fails to cure the deficiencies of Korean Document and that Korean Document and Stillwell, Jr., taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest “at least one garment moistening tool having at least one outlet for supplying a moistening agent to garments located outside the garment holding enclosure *when the garment holding enclosure is in an enclosed configuration,”* as recited in claim 1. Because claims 4 and 5 depend on and, therefore, contain all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4 and 5 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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